

CROP REPORT



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PRESS RELEASE

Oregon Sheep down 9 Percent

Sheep and lambs in Oregon on January 1, 2004, totaled 215,000 head, a decrease of 20,000 head from last year, according to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service (OASS). This marks the second year in a row for declining sheep inventories.

The largest decrease was in total ewes one year and older, down 13,000 head to 112,000. Breeding sheep and lambs decreased 12,000 head to 145,000, and market lambs decreased 7,000 head to 69,000 head.

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 3 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million in 2002.

Sheep: Selected Western States, January 1, 2004

State	All sheep			Total breeding sheep & Lambs	Breeding ewes 1 year +	2003 Lamb crop	Total market sheep & lambs
	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> 2003				
	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>
California	730	680	93	325	275	260	355
Idaho	260	260	100	225	184	240	35
Montana	310	300	97	280	220	280	20
Oregon	235	215	91	145	112	140	70
Washington	55	46	84	40	32	55	6
U.S.	6,300	6,090	97	4,480	3,601	4,120	1,610

For more details, please call Gene Pierce or Janice Goodwin at 1-800-338-2157
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